***Statement***

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of the Scheme | Broad Objectives | Extent of funding | Status | Achievements during the last three years 93-94, 94-95 and 95-96 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | financial | | | Physical |
| | | | | | 93-94 | 94-95 | 95-96 | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Ganga Action Plan Phase-I | abatement of river water pollution | 100% | ongoing | 2440 | 865 | 582 | Targets fixed in terms of financial releases |
| 2. | Ganga Action Plan Phase-II | abatement of river water pollution | 50% | ongoing | 1069 | 235 | 638 | -do- |
| 3. | Paryavaran Vahini | create environmental awareness through active participation of public | 100% | ongoing | 2.04 | 2.86 | - | Paryavaran Vahinis constituted in 14 districts |
| 4. | Biosphere Reserves | To set up Biosphere Reserves | 100% | ongoing | 48.26 | 20.90 | 43.15 | 1 Biosphere Reserve covered |
| 5. | Conservation of Wetlands | to protect and regenerate the Wetlands | 100% | ongoing | - | - | 3.30 | N.A. |

N.A. : Not Available

*[English]*

**Prohibition**

2576. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are committed to introducing the prohibition all over the country;

(b) if so, concrete steps being taken to amend the Constitution of India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Implementation of Prohibition is the responsibility of the States by virtue of Entry 8 of the List II (State List) in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India. Therefore, the role of the Government of India is confined to advocacy and awareness generation.

**Sale of Wheat Under Open Sale Scheme**

2577. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKKA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to handover the sale of wheat under the Open Sale Scheme to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto;

(c) whether the Government under this decision would not be able to account for shortage of wheat by March when the buffer stock of wheat in the Central Pool is feared to be depleted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the concrete policy prepared by the Government in view of its present shortage and the extent to which the position of wheat has improved; and

(f) the total wheat imported/to be imported and the quantity to be distributed to the States therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFIARS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In December'96, a decision was taken that the entire quantity of wheat allocated for different States under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) be allocated to the respective State Government/UTs. The system of allotment through the three-member committee will, however, continue in these States/UTs which were not willing to undertake the sale of wheat under OMSS (D). The State Governments have taken over the distribution of wheat against the monthly allocation made by FCI under the scheme except in the following States :

Delhi, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Open Sale Scheme was started with a view to increasing availability in the market and thereby containing sharp rise in prices. In order to augment the availability of wheat in the country, Government of India decided to import upto two million tonnes of wheat. This will also augment the buffer stock level.

(e) In addition to import of wheat, steps are being taken to increase procurement of wheat from March, 1997 at a higher level than 1996-97.